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Here's to free-range parenting
The Kohler Report, PAGE 14

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Winnipeg Canada's most racist city: Maclean's



Ovide Mercredi, the former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, speaks in response to the Maclean's Magazine article on racism in Winnipeg. For his and other reactions, see page 3. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Story. Magazine explores racism issue after Tina Fontaine's death



SHANE GIBSON
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Maclean's magazine calls Winnipeg the country's "most racist" city in its latest edition.

In an interview done with a sister publication, Maclean's associate editor Nancy Macdonald said the magazine started looking at racism felt by Winnipeg's aboriginal community after the body of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine was found in the Red River in the summer.

"It was an atrocious story and it hit home in Winnipeg in a way that I've never seen before with a murder of a young aboriginal person," explained Macdonald.

Macdonald said the article, which will hit Winnipeg newsstands Tuesday, includes accounts of aboriginal people in Winnipeg who say they experience racism every day.

"One woman said a week doesn't go by that she isn't

harassed walking downtown, that someone doesn't call her a stupid squaw or tells her to go back to the rez or honks at her or offers her money for sex," said Macdonald.

"Educated people will tell me that every time they go into Walmart, security watches them as they leave. People will tell you they feel racial profiling by police and they're not treated fairly in hospitals.

"It's a really deep issue that cuts across all types of divides."

Despite the negatives brought up in the story, Macdonald also said the report found attitudes are starting to change in Winnipeg.

"The headline doesn't tell the entire story," she said. "This is actually a fairly positive story. People really feel that the issue is being talked about in a way that it hasn't before, that communities are coming together and that positive change may come from Tina's murder."

Mayor Brian Bowman gathered numerous indigenous activists and community leaders to talk about the article Thursday.

SEE REACTION TO THE ARTICLE FROM THE MAYOR AND LOCAL LEADERS, PAGE 3

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Mayor chokes up over Winnipeg racism article

Challenge. Métis politician Bowman was visually upset and vows to tackle and not ignore the issue

The mayor of Manitoba's capital tearfully promised Thursday to fight racism and intolerance after the city was branded Canada's most racist by a national magazine.

Brian Bowman stood surrounded by dozens of aboriginal and community leaders and admitted that Winnipeg has a problem with racism. The city's first Métis mayor broke down in tears as he talked about passing on his heritage to his young children.

"My wife is Ukrainian heritage. My family is Métis," he said as he choked back tears. "I want my boys to be as proud of both of those family lines."

Maclean's magazine published a cover story that gave Winnipeg the dubious distinction.

The reaction to the article from city hall was swift. The police chief, the provincial treaty commissioner, chiefs and community leaders assembled — not to refute the article — but to promise to do something about the issue it highlighted.

"We do have racism in Winnipeg.... You can't run away from facts," Bowman said following a closed-door traditional smudging ceremony. "Ignorance, hatred, intolerance, racism exists everywhere."

"Winnipeg has a responsibility right now to turn this



Mayor Brian Bowman, behind the podium, stands with about 45 local politicians, activists and aboriginal leaders Thursday afternoon. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Quoted

"I don't agree with the title. I think Winnipeg is on board the most to combat racism ... because we have so many courageous leaders here.... We have to address it when it happens every single time. Hopefully we can start changing perspectives."

Althea Guiboche, a.k.a. 'The Bannock Lady'

ship around and change the way we all relate."

Bowman said that means having an open dialogue with aboriginal leaders before taking concrete action, which he said is coming.

Other local leaders also had their say on the matter.

"I have a right to be different. If we as a society make that a basic principle — that all human beings have a right to be different — we'd go a long

way to solving the intolerance that many people experience. Instead of putting each other down, we should be trying to lift each other up," said Ovide Mercredi, former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Derek Nepinak said, "I guarantee you that, right now, somebody is having a racist experience in a restaurant or on the streets



Althea Guiboche, a local activist who hands out bannock and chili for free on the streets of Winnipeg, speaks to media Thursday afternoon. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

in Winnipeg somewhere. I'm not here to pacify that or to say that it's OK. There are people who are wilfully blind, wilfully ignorant to the reality of indigenous people in this society. But we will challenge them."

Winnipeg Police Chief Devon Clunis added, "We need to have a difficult conversation in our city respective of race. I think you are seeing who is starting that conversation today." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Slide the City could be coming this summer — if organizers can find a place not quite so flat nearby. COURTESY SLIDE THE CITY

Not all downhill for giant slide

Slide the City.

Thousand-foot-long waterside could come make a splash in Winnipeg this summer

COLIN
FAST

winnipeg@metronews.ca

Get your swimsuits and inflatable tubes ready, Winnipeg — a 1,000-foot-long slip-and-slide could be hitting city streets this summer.

The organizers behind Slide the City said they're

Quoted

"You don't exactly have your pick of hills."

Megan Pingree of Slide the City on Winnipeg's flat topography

looking at dates and locations for a Winnipeg event that could see up to 6,000 people take a run down a vinyl waterside that's as long as three football fields.

While the company prefers to set up along downtown streets, Winnipeg's flat topography might force the event outside the perimeter.

"You don't exactly have your pick of hills," acknowledged Slide the City's Megan Pingree. "We're not looking to hurl people down at high speed, but we do have to keep them moving."

Slide the City got started in Salt Lake City last year and is planning to hit 150 locations across North America through the spring and summer.

Slide the City hopes to announce full details of its Winnipeg event by the end of February. Ticket prices will range from \$15 to \$55. See slidethecity.com for more information.

Canadians laugh at the same things, says Butt

Winnipeg fans of Brent Butt can expect to hear no Blue Bomber jokes from the funnyman formerly from Saskatchewan when he comes to town next month.

But that's only because he doesn't know any.

"Do I have any Blue Bomber jokes? Does anybody have Blue Bomber jokes?" chuckled the comedian from his home in Vancouver this week when asked if there were any jokes he wouldn't tell Winnipeggers at his Feb. 21 date at the Pantages Playhouse Theatre.

Butt said the Brent Butt you see in Winnipeg is going to be pretty well the same Brent Butt you see anywhere else in Canada.

"There's more difference between two people in the same city than there is between two cities," said the



Corner Gas creator Brent Butt will perform in Winnipeg at the Pantages Playhouse Theatre Feb. 21. HANDOUT

man behind TV's Corner Gas, who, after spending 27 years travelling across

Performing for a cause

Butt's stop in Winnipeg will raise money for the West St. Paul Lions Club, a cause promoter Nancy Robichaud-Grubiak said she picked because of their work in the community.

- Tickets for the show are \$32.50 or \$39.50 plus fees at all Ticketmaster locations or online at ticketmaster.ca.

Canada doing shows, should know a thing or two about Canadians. "I've never found any kind of geographical or municipal thing to hang my hat on in any city or area of the country."

SHANE GIBSON/METRO



Help replace tutus older than many ballerinas

Royal Winnipeg Ballet Soloist Sophia Lee poses in her Swan Lake costume. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet has launched a fundraising campaign to replace 28 tutus that are more than 25 years old. Called Tutus in Bloom, the campaign hopes to raise enough to replace the masterpieces — which cost about \$2,000 apiece to create. For more info, visit rwb.org. REJEAN BRANDT PHOTOGRAPHY/CONTRIBUTED



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Mayor seeking answers in Carlton Inn deal



Ross McGowan, former president and CEO of CentreVenture METRO FILE

Development. CentreVenture's ex-CEO welcome at EPC to address decision regarding site: Bowman



BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

Mayor Brian Bowman issued an open invitation to the former president and CEO of CentreVenture to explain the complex deals regarding the land on which the Carlton Inn once stood.

Ross McGowan led CentreVenture when the arm's-length agency of the city spent \$6.6 million to buy the hotel. Later, the agency conducted a search to find an ap-

propriate developer.

That decision is now under scrutiny after it was revealed late last week that construction company Stuart Olson, which had the responsibility to build a hotel near the renovated Winnipeg Convention Centre, had contracted a firm to do the same thing.

Convention Centre officials are asking council to vote in favour of a deal that would

see Stuart Olson pay \$3.75 million in damages instead of a \$16-million payment "hold-back" for not building a hotel.

"We may (request McGowan's presence)," Bowman said after Wednesday's executive policy committee meeting.

"We would welcome anybody from any organization that wants to come to EPC as delegation, they're open to at-

tend at any point in time."

Earlier that day, the newly hired president and CEO of CentreVenture, Angela Mathieson, was asked if McGowan should have been with her at the meeting to answer questions.

She said it was a CentreVenture board decision, not just McGowan's, and she now represents the organization.

WITH FILES FROM COLIN FAST

Health care. Aides have limited training: Study

A study by the University of Alberta suggests front-line workers in Canada's crowded nursing homes are suffering a "worrisome" level of burnout.

The study "Who is Looking After Mom and Dad? Unregulated Workers in Canadian Long-term Care Homes" takes an in-depth look at the health-care aide workforce in Canada, a group estimated to be made up of 250,000 people.

Health-care aides provide the bulk of care to residents who have increasingly challenging needs in the latter part of their lives.

The report, which looked at the situation in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba,

was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

It found the workers have limited training and in many cities speak English as a second language.

It also found more than 60 per cent of the care aides were born outside of Canada.

Most provinces in Canada require some kind of education and certification to work in the field. However, the standards differ widely depending on location.

Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia have aide registries; Manitoba and the other provinces and territories in Canada do not.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, GLOBAL WINNIPEG



Care aides are in short supply and suffer disproportionately from burnout, according to a new study. THINKSTOCK

Peguis First Nation

RCMP accuse parents, stepsister of killing toddler

A mother, father and stepsister have been charged in the violent death of a 21-month-old girl on a reserve north of Winnipeg.

RCMP announced the charges Thursday, six months after the death of the toddler on the Peguis First Nation.

The girl died last July after being brought to hospital with "trauma-related injuries," an RCMP release said.

The toddler's mother, 36, was charged with second-degree murder and failing to provide the necessities of life.

The father and stepsister were charged with manslaughter and failing to provide the necessities of life.

All three adults were arrested earlier this week. On Thursday, a judge ordered a publication ban on the case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The ABCs of RFPs

Mayor Brian Bowman summed up real-estate transactions at city hall in one word during Wednesday's executive policy committee meeting: "alarming." Bowman also said repeatedly that he wants to see fewer "closed-door meetings" for deals and more use of the solicitation process of request for proposals, better known as RFP.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

What is RFP?

RFP is a bidding process by which a company or agency can offer their services for whatever project or study another entity, such as a municipal government, may need done. The idea is that by making this process open, more companies will bid, therefore giving the municipality more options to choose from and, usually, competitive pricing.



What are the alternatives?

A popular yet controversial option called sole-source contracting, also known as "no-bid" contracting, sees an entity such as a municipal government only dealing with one company or agency. What is lost by going this route is the competitive nature — however, proponents of this type of contracting say it's much faster than the RFP process.



What the mayor had to say

"The reality is that there is a new administration — what may have been acceptable in the past is not acceptable on a go-forward basis, and sole-sourcing and these sorts of matters, without going to public RFP, without even a public expression of interest being sought, is simply not acceptable." Mayor Brian Bowman

The Carlton Inn conundrum

Angela Mathieson, the new president and CEO of CentreVenture, said she has a development plan in the works for the site of the former Carlton Inn, owned by CentreVenture. That piece of land is currently under the microscope as Convention Centre officials look for city council's approval of a deal that would see construction company Stuart Olson pay \$3.75 million in damages for not building a hotel at that location. Mayor Bowman wants to see an RFP process begin. To that Mathieson said,

"The procurement decision is a decision; in some cases it makes sense to do an expression of interest, an RFP, a tender, or make a strategic land assembly. That's what development corporations and community development corporations are very, very uniquely tasked to do."



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The Victoria Curling Club has been sold, and all profits are going to Curl Manitoba. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Victoria Curling Club site sold

Sports. Proceeds of sale will benefit Curl Manitoba



SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Last summer's closure of a curling mainstay in Winnipeg is about to start strengthening the sport for curlers across the province.

After 95 years on William Avenue, the Victoria Curling Club announced their closure in June, saying they couldn't cover the cost of any sudden structural or operation expenses.

The club's building, land and assets were all donated to Curl Manitoba, and with a sale that went through late last month, that gift is about to bear fruit for the not-for-profit

Quoted

"The negative of something shutting down has a silver lining."

Craig Baker, executive director of Curl Manitoba

organization.

"It's a great legacy; we couldn't be happier that they decided to go this route," said Curl Manitoba's executive director Craig Baker, who couldn't say exactly how much the sale brought in because lawyers are still hammering out the details.

"The negative of something shutting down has a silver lining in that everything we're trying to do with it is for the betterment of curling in the province."

Baker said a majority of

the cash made from the sale of the building and land — and assets like rocks and ice-making equipment — will go into Curl Manitoba's Curling for Life Endowment Fund.

Donations to the fund are pooled and permanently invested, meaning the capital is never spent but yearly revenue is used for scholarships and curling promotion and development.

"It was very clear from the members they wanted the closure of the Vic to benefit curling in the province," said Victoria Curling Club's president John Muir in a press release announcing the donation back in October. "The Curling for Life Endowment Fund will ensure the legacy of the Vic will live on forever."

Baker wouldn't tell Metro who bought the club but did say they don't plan on using it for curling.

Senior staff undermining Selinger: Former minister

There was more acrimony Thursday in the battle to lead Manitoba's governing New Democrats when a former cabinet minister accused some senior staff of undermining Premier Greg Selinger.

Tim Sale, a former health minister who retired in 2007, said some of Selinger's top staff, who have left their jobs to work for opponent Theresa Oswald's leadership campaign, have held a grudge ever since Selinger became leader in 2009.

The staff "have opposed and often undercut Greg Selinger from the outset," Sale wrote in a letter to the editor published in the Winnipeg Free Press.

The harsh words follow accusations last weekend from longtime NDP backbencher Rob Altemeyer. He said senior government staff who have left their jobs to work for Oswald are guilty of "an appalling abdication of responsibility."

Selinger's chief of staff

told government workers they were free to work for any candidate without fear of retribution, and some have taken vacation time or left their jobs altogether to work on Oswald's campaign. The exodus included some of Selinger's top advisers, such as Anna Rothney, head of the cabinet priorities and planning committee.

Rothney, who is managing the Oswald campaign, rejected the accusation that she ever undermined Selinger. Rothney worked on Selinger's leadership bid in 2009 and said Thursday she and others who have now left the premier's office worked hard for him every day.

Gord Mackintosh, a veteran cabinet minister who has remained neutral in the leadership race, has offered to be a go-between to try to de-escalate the war of words.

"People in different camps have suggested that I might have a role to ensure

Party divide

The infighting has many New Democrats concerned that regardless of who wins the leadership vote, the party will remain divided and not survive a provincial election set for April 2016.

- Recent opinion polls have suggested a sharp drop in popularity for the NDP. A Probe Research survey last month suggested 26 per cent support for the New Democrats and 48 per cent for the Opposition Progressive Conservatives. Results from the random telephone survey of 1,002 Manitobans are considered accurate to within plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

party unity as this campaign unfolds, but just on an informal, unofficial (basis)."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Flying cladding closes Garry Street

Garry Street from Portage Avenue to St. Mary Avenue had to be closed to pedestrians and traffic Thursday morning after high winds started tearing metal cladding off the side of the tower at the former Canada Post Building at 266 Graham Ave. Police re-opened the street at 7:15 p.m. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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Saudi authorities delay flogging of blogger due to medical concerns

Free speech. Raif Badawi, whose wife fled to Canada in 2012, was imprisoned over posts on his liberal-minded blog

1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for writing on a liberal blog he founded. He was also fined more than \$300,000.

The 32-year-old father of three received the first 50 lashes on Jan. 9, but his second set of lashes was postponed last week for medical reasons.

The lashes were scheduled to be doled out over a period of 20 weeks.

"Instead of continuing to torment Raif Badawi by dragging out his ordeal with repeated assessments the authorities should publicly announce an end to his flogging and release him immediately and unconditionally," said Boumedouha, of Amnesty International, said in a statement.

Badawi is not a Canadian citizen but his wife and three children fled Saudi Arabia in 2012 and settled in Sherbrooke, Que., in 2013.

Protest vigils have been held across Quebec, and in dozens of countries around the world, in solidarity with Badawi in recent weeks.

NDP leader Tom Mulcair

Authorities in Saudi Arabia have postponed the flogging of blogger Raif Badawi for medical reasons, a spokeswoman for the family said Thursday.

Elham Manea told The Canadian Press that local doctors in Jiddah determined Badawi could not withstand the 50 lashes scheduled for Friday.

She added that Badawi's punishment won't likely go ahead for several weeks.

"We are very cautious," Manea said in an interview from Switzerland. "We are very glad to hear this, but at the same time, we are very cautious. We are very worried that, nevertheless, things will change in Saudi Arabia."

Badawi was sentenced to



Ensaf Haider, wife of Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, takes part in a rally for his freedom in Montreal on Jan. 13, 2015. Badawi was sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for writing on a liberal blog he founded. RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raif Badawi

Baird bids for clemency

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has raised concerns with a Saudi prince about the flogging sentence handed down to a blogger with family in Quebec.

A government official, speaking on condition they not be named, says Baird raised Canada's concerns about blogger Raif Badawi with Prince Turki Al Faisal, a member of the House of Saud.

Baird raised the case during a bilateral meeting with the prince, one of several he had Wednesday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

In a previous written statement, Baird condemned the sentence and called for clemency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-priest convicted on 32 child sex abuse charges

A courtroom swelled with weeping, cries and 35 years of bottled-up grief Thursday as a defrocked priest who abused dozens of Inuit children told a judge about to sentence him that he's sorry for his crimes and won't commit any more.

"I can only take responsibility for what I have done," said Eric Dejaeger, 67, convicted on 32 counts of child sex abuse from his days as an Oblate missionary in Igloolik, Nunavut, between 1978 and 1982.

"I would like to ask for forgiveness," he said. "I promise not to reoffend — and that's not just words."

That cued a crescendo of sorrow and tears from about 30 victims and supporters who had gathered to see their one-time tormentor for what they hoped was the last time.

It was the end of a story that began for some victims when they were as young as four and which played out across three decades and two continents. It raised questions about the role of the Catholic church and Canadian officials in delaying justice for those suffering mental



Eric Dejaeger leaves an Igloolik, Nunavut courtroom Jan. 20, 2011. Despite promising not to reoffend, he was convicted on 32 charges of child sex abuse for incidents occurring between 1978 and 1982. CHRIS WINDEYER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

scars from horrific attacks.

The victims include 12 boys and 10 girls, most between the ages of eight and 12. Dejaeger also abused a dog in front of two children.

Many testified that Dejaeger used his position to trap them into sex, threatening them with hellfire or separation from their families if they told. Sometimes he dangled food in front of hungry children as a lure.

Dejaeger has already served one five-year sentence on 11

sent a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper last week, asking him to speak out in support of the jailed blogger.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said "Canada is

deeply concerned" by Badawi's punishment, which he described as "a violation of human dignity and freedom of expression."

"While Mr. Badawi is not a

Canadian citizen, we will continue to make our position known, both publicly and through diplomatic channels," Baird said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugee claims

Federal project won't be renewed

A government pilot project that essentially paid failed refugee claimants to leave Canada won't be renewed after an internal review. The program was supposed to save time and money when it came to getting failed refugee claimants out of the country — but appears to have done neither. The pilot project gave failed claimants between \$500 and \$2,000 in exchange for their voluntary departure from Canada, and also covered the cost of their plane ticket. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regina, Sask.

Girl, 3, left on bus, has nightmares

A Regina mother says her three-year-old daughter who was left alone for four hours strapped into a daycare minibus is now suffering from nightmares. Destiny Stonechild says her child, Sequiona, wakes up screaming every night since the incident occurred. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health. Canadians caring for ill elders more stressed

Canadians caring for chronically ill older relatives are stressed out at a time when an aging population means more people will require such care, says a new report by the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

The report, released Thursday, also found that suicide rates are higher here than in some other developed nations.

Among those 15 and over who provide care to a family member with a long-term health condition, the report found almost 17 per cent reported higher levels of stress.

The problem is expected to worsen due to increasing rates of dementia and other chronic illnesses, which is why caregiving is among four of 13 mental-health indicators deemed areas of "significant concern" by the commission.

So too are suicide rates, intentional self-harm among college students and mental health recovery. Nearly 20 per cent of university students said they had engaged in self-harm, the study found.

"There are known strategies that work to prevent suicide; other countries are doing it, like the United Kingdom," Jennifer Vornbrock, a commission

official, told a news conference.

Canada should follow suit and invest in suicide prevention, she said.

David Goldbloom, chair of the commission, said some of the indicators "raise significant concerns or indicate that we are moving in the wrong direction. ... We can take little comfort from many of them."

Vornbrock said she hopes the report will underline the need to take mental health more seriously.

She called mental health "the poor cousin of the poor cousin of the health care system."

The federal government created the Mental Health Commission of Canada in 2007. The organization, funded by Health Canada, operates at arm's length and has a 10-year mandate. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2011 stats

3,728

The commission found that 3,728 Canadians — about 11 of every 100,000 — killed themselves. While stable, the rate is higher than in some other G8 countries.



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World's oldest monarch dies

The king is dead.

Saudi Arabia's
Abdullah was key U.S.
ally in the Middle East

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, the powerful U.S. ally who joined Washington's fight against al-Qaida and sought to modernize the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom with incremental but significant reforms, including nudging open greater opportunities for women, has died, according to Saudi state TV. He was 90.

More than his guarded and hidebound predecessors, Abdullah assertively threw his oil-rich nation's weight behind trying to shape the Mid-

dle East. His priority was to counter the influence of rival, mainly Shiite Iran wherever it tried to make advances. He and fellow Sunni Arab monarchs also staunchly opposed the Middle East's wave of pro-democracy uprisings, seeing them as a threat to stability and their own rule.

He backed Sunni Muslim factions against Tehran's allies in several countries, but in Lebanon for example, the policy failed to stop Iranian-backed Hezbollah from gaining the upper hand. And Tehran and Riyadh's colliding ambitions stoked proxy conflicts around the region that enflamed Sunni-Shiite hatred — most horrifically in Syria's civil war, where the two countries backed opposing sides. Those conflicts in turn hiked

Sunni militancy that returned to threaten Saudi Arabia.

And while the king maintained the historically close alliance with Washington, there were frictions as he sought to put those relations on Saudi Arabia's terms. He was constantly frustrated by Washington's failure to broker a settlement to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. He also pushed the Obama administration to take a tougher stand against Iran and to more strongly back the mainly Sunni rebels fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Abdullah's death was announced on Saudi state TV, saying the king died after midnight on Friday. His successor is his 79-year-old half-brother, Prince Salman, who had recently taken on the

King Abdullah

- Abdullah was born in Riyadh in 1924, one of the dozens of sons of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud.
- Like all Abdul-Aziz's sons, Abdullah had only rudimentary education.
- Abdullah had more than 30 children from around a dozen wives.

lieved to have long rankled at the closeness of the alliance with the United States and as regent he pressed Washington to withdraw the troops it had deployed in the kingdom since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The U.S. finally did so in 2003.

In 2000, Abdullah convinced the Arab League to approve an unprecedented offer that all Arab states would agree to peace with Israel if it withdrew from lands it captured in 1967.

The next year, he sent his ambassador in Washington to tell the Bush administration that it was too unquestioningly biased in favour of Israel and that the kingdom would from now on pursue its own interests apart from Washington's. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Video. Police shooting of black man raises questions

A police video of officers confronting and then fatally shooting a black man in southern New Jersey has raised questions and stirred anger over another death at the hands of police.

The video of the Dec. 30 killing of Jerame Reid in Bridgeton, a struggling, mostly minority city of 25,000 people about 40 miles south of Philadelphia, was released this week.

Conrad Benedetto, a Philadelphia lawyer, said he has been hired by Reid's wife. He said in a statement the footage "raises serious questions as to the legality and/or reasonableness of the officers' actions that night" because Reid was shot as he raised his hands.

With the dashboard camera in their cruiser rolling, police pulled a Jaguar over for running a stop sign on a dark night. But things suddenly turned tense when one of the officers warned his partner that he could see a gun in the glove compartment.

Screaming over and over "Don't you f---ing move!" and "Show me your hands!" at the

Community relations

2014 was a bad year for relations between police forces and black communities in the United States.

- **July 17.** Police choked 43-year-old Eric Garner to death in Staten Island, N.Y.
- **Aug. 9.** Police shot and killed 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.
- **Nov. 14.** Police shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio.

man in the passenger seat, the officer reached into the car and appeared to remove a silver handgun.

Then, the passenger, despite being warned repeatedly not to move, stepped out of the Jaguar, his hands raised about shoulder level.

The officers opened fire, killing him. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Charlie Hebdo no hero to Afghan protesters

Afghans outside the French embassy in Kabul hold posters that read "I love Muhammad" during a protest Thursday against caricatures published in French magazine Charlie Hebdo. Around 100 people have demonstrated in the Afghan capital against Charlie Hebdo, accusing them of blasphemy.

RAHMAT GUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Disease

Measles hitting U.S. theme parks

A measles outbreak traced to Disney theme parks in California led to warnings against visiting the happiest place on Earth if tourists or their children have not been vaccinated against the highly contagious respiratory disease that has sickened 70 people.

People who have not received the measles-mumps-rubella, or MMR, vaccine are susceptible to contracting the highly contagious illness and should avoid Disney "for the time being," state epidemiologist Gil Chavez said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL

Japan seeks hostage release

Japan scrambled Thursday for ways to secure the release of two hostages held by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group.

The militants threatened in a video message to kill the hostages within 72 hours unless they receive \$200 million U.S. Based on the video's release time, that deadline would expire sometime Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentina

Death no suicide, president says

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez said Thursday she's "convinced" that prosecutor Alberto Nisman's death was not a suicide, raising more questions about the death of the man who had accused her of a cover-up in the nation's worst terrorist attack.

Fernandez' letter contrasts with one she wrote Monday in which she referred to his death as a suicide. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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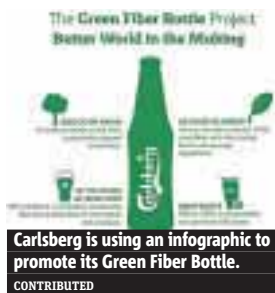


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Carlsberg is using an infographic to promote its Green Fiber Bottle. CONTRIBUTED

Carlsberg developing wood fibre beer bottle

If you're a Carlsberg beer drinker, you might soon have to get used to toasting without that familiar "clink."

The alcohol giant announced Thursday that it is in the process of developing a biodegradable bottle made of wood fibre, meaning there won't be any sound when you touch bottles before throwing back a cold one.

Though the Green Fiber Bottle won't replace Carlsberg's aluminum or glass varieties, it could face criticism from diehard beer lovers who have become accustomed to the sound.

It's a problem Carlsberg faced when it introduced a polyethylene terephthalate bottle in Sweden, said spokesman Simon Hoffmeyer Boas.

Kenneth Wong, a marketing professor at Queen's University, said he's not sure how many brew lovers will be heartbroken over the clink, but "certainly it will be a factor." He noted that the bottle announcement came as companies are pouring their efforts into generating buzz and cultivating buyers to offset declines in beer sales.

"This is one more turn of the wheel," Wong said. "Whether or not it works is another story."

Steve Beauchesne, CEO and co-founder of Beau's All Natural Brewing Co., a craft brewery in Vankleek Hill, Ont., said Carlsberg isn't the first to use innovative packaging materials that stretch beyond glass and aluminum. Beau's sells beer in ceramic bottles with a swing top and packages them in a wooden crate.

Beauchesne says companies are getting creative because "beer is not just about the liquid" but also the experience.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mobile users wait for better battery

Smartphones.

Companies offering workarounds for red-zone anxiety

At a watering hole in Brooklyn, bartender Kathy Conway counted four phone chargers behind the bar. Smartphone users, facing the scourge of the red zone, are tired of begging to charge devices behind bars or hunting for hidden electrical outlets in airports and train stations and are looking for a better battery.

While a better battery is a long way off, there are some options to ward off battery anxiety.

Companies displayed battery chargers and smartphone extenders at the annual gadget show known as CES. One that seems particularly convenient is the 911 Boost, developed by Florida entrepreneur Bernard Emano and his two firefighter sons. The small square weighs only 65 grams and is designed to be carried on a key chain. It's versatile, with three retractable jacks so it can plug into new and old-model iPhones and any phone that takes a micro-USB plug. The \$30 US device can only provide about a 60 per cent charge for most phones, though a battery with more capacity would be too heavy for a key chain.

Chinese company Zero-Lemon has a line of rugged smartphone cases for Apple, Samsung and LG phones that come with built-in battery extenders. A \$69 US version for the iPhone 6, called the Ruged Juicer, will let you go up to three times as long before



Travellers, like these at McCarran airport in Las Vegas, have to hunt to find a charging station as their power-hungry mobile devices put a strain on the common lithium-ion batteries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Power hogs

The capacity of the common lithium-ion battery that powers laptops, cellphones and tablet computers has tripled since 1990. But that's not nearly enough to keep up with the demand gadget addicts have for constant use of skinny, light mobile devices that limit battery size.

- Two billion mobile phones were shipped worldwide in 2014, 75 per cent of which were smartphones. Demand is growing by 10 to 12 per cent each year.

you need a recharge. Zero-Lemon also makes pocket-sized solar chargers that will restore a battery to full capacity in about three hours.

Qualcomm has extended

battery life through more efficient software and hardware: when one part of the chipset is in use, the rest gets turned off to save energy. The chipset also tries to store a lot of data internally so that it doesn't have to expend energy constantly reaching out to the phone's memory banks.

Google, whose Android operating system runs on most of the world's smartphones, last year launched Project Volta, a tool aimed at extending mobile battery life.

Waking up a phone's application processor, for example, can start consuming a lot of power, but a lot of apps don't need to do that constantly. A function called JobScheduler helps ensure that apps wait to perform non-critical tasks like updates when your phone is not connected to a power source.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
80.62¢ US (-0.45¢)

TSX
14,763.98 (+203.56)

OIL
\$46.31 US (-\$1.47)

GOLD
\$1,300.70 US (+\$7)

Natural gas: \$2.835 US (-13.9¢)
Dow Jones: 17,813.98 (+259.70)

Media

Jury fails to agree on verdict in trial of U.K. journalists

A British jury has failed to reach a verdict at the trial of four journalists from the tabloid Sun accused of bribing police and public officials for scoops.

Jurors announced Thursday after 49 hours of deliberations that they could not agree on verdicts against head of news Chris Pharo, ex-deputy news editor

Ben O'Driscoll, reporter Jamie Pyatt and former managing editor Graham Dudman. Prosecutors said they would seek a retrial.

Many senior journalists from Rupert Murdoch-owned newspapers have been arrested as part of a sprawling probe into alleged tabloid wrongdoing. Several have been acquitted, including former Sun editor Rebekah Brooks.

The defendants denied all charges and claimed they were "fed to the wolves" by parent company News International.

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VOICES

FREE-RANGE SURE BEATS HELICOPTER

THE KOHLER
REPORT

By Rebecca Kohler

A Winnipeg court will soon decide whether a mother is guilty of child abandonment after leaving her six-year-old son at home alone for 20 minutes while she did some errands. A guilty verdict would set a precedent and could mean leaving children alone would go from a common-sense no-no to absolutely illegal.

To me, six does seem a young age to be man-of-the-house for an hour and a half — when I was six, I wouldn't have left me in charge of Silly Putty, let alone a household — but then again, I've met precocious six-year-olds who seemed smarter than some of my ex-boyfriends.

And just over 100 years ago, children as young as four were working in factories to help with the family income. True, laws were created to stop that because it was dangerous and cruel, but if a four-year-old can sweep a chimney, maybe we don't give kids enough credit today.

You may have heard of a similar case in the news recently regarding Maryland, Va., parents Danielle and Alexander Meitiv, who let their 10-

and six-year-old children walk a mile home alone from a park. A concerned citizen saw the unsupervised children and called police. The Meitivs are now under investigation for being negligent parents.

In interviews, the Meitivs come across as the opposite of negligent. They seem thoughtful and dedicated to giving their children the best possible childhood — the kind of childhood they had.

They're advocates of what's called "free-range parenting" and, though it sounds like they're raising chickens, the movement is actually about raising your kids to be self-reliant and independent by letting them do things — like walk home from the park — by themselves.

Free-range parenting makes a lot of sense to me, as I wonder if news stories and crime shows about abductions have people paralyzed with what might be an irrational fear.

As Danielle Meitiv put it during an interview on the Today Show, these days maybe we're "overestimating the danger and underestimating our children."

If you're any older than 30, I'll bet you got away with a lot more than kids do today.

Overstating the risk

Free-range parenting makes a lot of sense to me, as I wonder if news stories and crime shows about abductions have people paralyzed with what might be an irrational fear.

I was biking around my neighbourhood at 10 — no helmet, as helmets were for nerds only — I walked to the corner store for Popsicles, played with friends at the park.

Looking back, I don't see my parents as negligent. I thank them for giving me the space to learn for myself that roller-skating down a hill is not a great idea.

It's not clear whether the Winnipeg mother identifies as a "free-ranger" or was just trying to make do in a busy life, as not a lot of information has been released about her.

What has been reported is that her son is now living with his father and she hasn't seen him in 18 months, which seems extreme.

Maybe there's more to the story: maybe she's known to be irresponsible with her son, maybe she considers Play-Doh a food group and maybe the way the courts are treating her is based on more than just this one incident. Or maybe they're being helicopter courts?

Danielle Meitiv also pointed out that letting her kids walk home from the park is not only good for their health in terms of exercise, but the No. 1 cause of childhood death is car accidents. In her mind, having them walk home alone is actually safer than driving them.

This might sound like hippy-dippy bologna to you, but statistically speaking, she's right — I checked.

So if it's the safety of the children we're all concerned about, and we look at the statistics, maybe every parent that drives their kids places should be investigated for negligence?

Or maybe today we're not giving the children or the parents enough credit.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.)

Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From intellectual garden gnomes to dancing wee-wees and hooahas, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



CRAZED HOCKEY PARENTS

Parents on Vancouver Island have gotten a one-game suspension and a stern warning from the local hockey association. Parents were told in a letter that if they don't stop their "vindictiveness" toward youth refs, they'll be banned from watching any games. The verbal abuse has apparently gotten so bad that some of refs have taken to hiding in the change rooms. Look: when teenagers are locking themselves up to get away from you (and these teenagers are not your own kids), you have a problem.

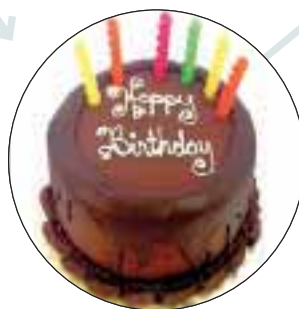


GNOME CHOMSKY

Thanks to Just Say Gnome sculptor Steve Herrington and the Internet, you can now have your very own Noam Chomsky garden gnome to proudly display on your lawn. The miniature statues have been around for more than a decade, but due to the mysterious magic of the Internet, they've suddenly become popular enough to be on the radar of this national newspaper and we can tell you about them.

BIRTHDAY PARTY
DRAMA MOMMA

This week in passive-aggressive parenting: a woman in England sent five-year-old Alex home with a £15 invoice after he failed to show up to her son's birthday party. When Alex's father refused to pay the bill, Jennifer Lawrence allegedly threatened to take him to small-claims court. This woman seems like she should take a lesson or two from her more famous namesake on the art of being chill. Grab a slice of leftover cake and try to relax.

DANCING GENITALS
GO VIRAL

The Swedes do it again, crafting yet another near-perfect pop tune. Instant classic Snoppen Och Snippan is aimed at kids and performed by cartoon genitals, who sing about how great private parts are. While a few parents complained they didn't think the song was age-appropriate, others thought the song reinforces stereotypes about boys and girls. We say it's hard to think about gender politics while listening to a tune this catchy. Snippe-dippe snippetty snop!

CONFESSIONS
OF A LAZY MAILMAN

Sometimes "going postal" just means feeling sluggish enough that you end up not doing your job very well. A former U.S. Postal Service worker pleaded guilty this week for failing to deliver close to 1,000 pieces of mail. Twenty-seven-year-old Alex Douma explained to investigators that he "just got lazy." Not cool, Douma, but we value your honesty!



Depp's rebel days are long gone

Mortdecai. New role as a bumbling British art dealer is the latest in a string of box-office-friendly characters that are damaging his rep as an edgy actor

There are dozens of biographies on Johnny Depp and a surprising amount of them use the word "rebel" in the title. There's the *Passionate Rebel*, the *Modern Rebel* and even Hollywood's *Best-Loved Rebel*.

There can be no argument that Depp is a fearless actor, unafraid to tackle tough, challenging roles, but it's hard to accept the rebel title these days. For 20 years, he wildly threw darts at the wall, making exciting movies with interesting directors.

With Tim Burton, he created the off-kilter Eds — Wood and Scissorhands. With John Waters, he produced Wade Walker, the greaser love interest in *Cry-baby*. And, with Lasse Hallström, he came up with Gilbert Grape, caregiver to his brother and morbidly obese mother.

Along the way, he was also Hunter S. Thompson in *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, the world's most successful drug dealer in *Blow*, and the depraved poet at the dark heart of *The Libertine*.

Few actors could have pulled off Ed Wood and no one does debauched like Johnny, but the carefully cultivated hip outsider image was never truly accurate.

Shrouded in a cloud of Gauloise smoke, he was one



Johnny Depp plays a shady, moustachioed art dealer in *Mortdecai*. CONTRIBUTED

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE



of Hollywood's too-cool-for-school kids, emitting an outsider's aura, while astutely playing the Hollywood game.

But any remaining traces of Depp's bohemian status were wiped away with Captain Jack Sparrow's colourful scarves in the tetralogy of *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies. They made him a superstar, and wealthy enough to buy Bahamian islands, but also ushered in the damaging wig and makeup era of his career.

The pale makeup of *Dark Shadows*, *Alice in*

Wonderland's crazy oversized hat, and the raven headdress of *The Lone Ranger* overshadowed Depp's performances, obscuring his character work with props and flash.

This weekend, he hides behind a moustache in the comedy *Mortdecai*.

As the title character, he's pompous, bumbling — imagine Inspector Clouseau with an English accent and an attitude — and on a worldwide hunt for a painting said to contain the code to a lost bank account.

Will people be attracted to *Mortdecai*? Hard to know. Depp's showy performances have, by-and-large, garnered

Richard's ratings

Here Metro curates some quick Crouse takes on films currently unspooling at theatres across the country.

Still Alice

.....

Strange Magic

.....

Cake

.....

The Humbling

.....

The Boy Next Door

.....

big box office but profitability, while important to the suits who green light projects like this, is exactly what's killing Depp's credibility as a serious actor.

He's not in Nicolas Cage territory yet — there's an actor whose Western Kabuki style of acting redefines idiosyncratic — but with *Pirates of the Caribbean 5* coming soon, perhaps it's time to put Depp's rebel actor image or reliance on props to bed.

There were no press screenings for *Mortdecai*, so there is no rating from Richard. See inside for early reviews from Rotten Tomatoes.

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Pushing boundaries empowers Lopez

Movie feature.

Steamy new thriller challenges J-Lo's skills as an actress and as an independent producer



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Metro in Hollywood

Jennifer Lopez would be having a lot more fun making a rom-com, but then work can't always be fun, can it?

Her latest film, the steamy thriller *The Boy Next Door*, is pretty far from lighter fare like *The Wedding Planner* or *The Back-Up Plan*.

Lopez stars as an English teacher who succumbs to the advances of her neighbour's comely young nephew (Ryan Guzman). As you can imagine, it doesn't go well from there.

Now, back to that fun factor part of the job.

"I prefer romantic comedies. They're just fun. That's a fun set," Lopez admits. "You're just seeing how silly you can



Jennifer Lopez stars in and produced *The Boy Next Door*. CONTRIBUTED

make things. They're romantic, and I'm a hopeless romantic, as well. So I really enjoy doing that kind of stuff."

But she insists she also likes to push herself.

"Being more dramatic or being more tough or being more vulnerable, it's all the

same. It's all about trying to find the reality in the moment, making it real. All of a sudden, I have this high-pitched scream that I've never heard myself do, and that's when I know I'm tapping into something real."

Another challenge with her

Boy Next Door role was the extremely intimate sex scene that sets the craziness of the plot in motion — and required some bold, revealing work on Lopez's part.

"Scenes like that are always uncomfortable," she says. "It's a very vulnerable position to

The cute boy next door

So how much does art imitate life for Lopez?

"Actually, my first boyfriend was the boy next door, when I was like 13 or 14 years old. It was the summer I turned 14. He was cute. Cute enough, I guess, at the time."

But he didn't become a deranged stalker?

"I've had people kind of obsessed with me, but not like obsessed in a dangerous, scary way. No, thank God. I've never had to deal with anything like that."

passionate, real enough, then the rest of the movie doesn't make any sense."

Acting challenges aside, the movie also taught Lopez some lessons as a producer, particularly in the new rules of financing and independent filmmaking.

"We got it made on a micro-budget of \$4 million in 25 days," she reveals. "It was super-intense. I had never done a film like that in my career. But it was very liberating as an artist because it made me realize I can make whatever movie I want like this. It's the material that really matters. 'Do I feel like doing this at this time?' and not waiting for a big studio to green-light something or hire you as an actress. It really is very empowering."

So is that why she was absent from the big screen in 2014? Not quite.

"For me, it's just about what feels right at the time, and I was very in music land last year," she explains. "I'm always thinking about all of it, and then certain things take precedent at different times."

No need to be afraid of me, Ryan Guzman assures fans

Breakout role. Despite his scary character in *The Boy Next Door*, actor insists he's just a harmless little guy

Fans of *Pretty Little Liars* and the *Step Up* films are already familiar with Ryan Guzman, but with this weekend's *The Boy Next Door*, a lot more people are going to get a look at Guzman — a lot of him, in fact. Here's an introduction:

He's not tired of cookies:

"Everybody wants to know about the cookies," he says, citing the trailer. "As I came into New York, a couple of fans were waiting with cookies in hand. So I plan on getting as many cookies as I possibly can while the oven is still running, I guess."

He's heard how audiences react to the film: "So far, I've heard someone yell, 'Replay!' after the intimate sex scene."

He's sorry for freaking anyone out in real life: "People



Ryan Guzman plays a frightening stalker in *The Boy Next Door*.

get extremely scared by Noah Sandborn, so much so that when they see me in real life, they look at me a little differently. Until they actually start talking to me and realize that I'm just harmless little Ryan Guzman, there's a lot of people that are a little standoffish at first."

He knows where to look for inspiration: "I definitely have plenty of actors that I look up to, like Marlon Brando or Tom Hardy, Christian Bale. And Mark Wahlberg, his business savvy and how he came up. I

actually used Mark Wahlberg's Fear performance as something to base Noah Sandborn on in the beginning."

He knows his limitations: "The one thing I struggle with, if I'm being honest, is being the romantic hero — the protagonist that's lovey-dovey and says all the right things. I have the hardest time with those. I don't look at myself as a guy who can get any woman he wants or says all the right things. I look at myself as an idiot. I look at myself as a goofball." NED EHRBAR

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10 Sundance hopefuls to watch for

Film festival. If you're wondering why Robert Redford's indie showcase still matters, check out these contenders

**NED
EHRBAR**
Metro in Hollywood

If this year's Oscar nominations are any indication, talk of the Sundance Film Festival's waning relevance is shockingly premature. Two films that stood out in Park City last year — *Boyhood* and *Whiplash* — are two of the stronger Academy Award front-runners this year. So with a whole new crop of hopeful Sundance darlings ready to premiere, here's a look at some of the titles we're most excited about.

1. *Stanford Prison Experiment*

It's honestly surprising it's taken this long for this story — about one of the most infamous psychological studies in history — to make it to the screen. Kyle Patrick Alvarez (C.O.G.) directs an impressive cast including Ezra Miller, Billy Crudup, Tye Sheridan, James Wolk and Michael Angarano.

2. *I Am Michael*

If you see only one James Franco movie at Sundance this year — and, as usual, there are multiple — see this one. Franco stars in director Justin Kelly's real-life drama as Michael Glatze, a gay activist who becomes an ex-gay Christian pastor.

3. *Slow West*

The Sundance's first sale of the year has already happened, even before the festival started. Kodi Smit-McPhee (*The Road*) stars alongside Michael Fassbender and Ben Mendelsohn in this 19th century frontier drama about a young man searching for the woman he loves with some interesting company along for the ride.

4. *Z for Zachariah*

Compliance director Craig Zobel follows up that lightning rod of a film with the story of a love triangle — that just so happens to involve the three last people on earth in a post-apocalyptic future. Oh, and those three people happen to be Chiwetel Ejiofor, Chris Pine and Margot Robbie. Humanity could do worse.

5. *People, Places, Things*

There are plenty of examples this year of comic performers turning to Sundance films for a chance to stretch — in-



Slow West was Sundance's first sale, selling even before the film festival started. CONTRIBUTED



Greta Gerwig, left, co-wrote and stars in *Mistress America*. CONTRIBUTED



Stanford Prison Experiment. CONTRIBUTED

cluding two by festival regular Kristen Wiig, plus Sarah Silverman in *I Smile Back* — but the most intriguing is *Flight of the Conchords* star Jemaine Clement taking on the role of a widower with two young daughters.

6. *Last Days in the Desert*

Since the list of things Ewan McGregor hasn't done yet in his eclectic acting career apparently included playing Jesus Christ and the Devil, he decided

to knock them both out with one movie, chronicling Christ's 40-day exile and temptation. Yes, it's ground that's been covered on film before, but it's intriguing nonetheless.

7. *Mistress America*

Noah Baumbach and his girlfriend/star/co-writer/muse, Greta Gerwig look to recapture some of that Frances Ha magic with another story of young women in New York. Sounds like a plan.



James Franco, left, is an ex-gay Christian pastor in *I Am Michael*. CONTRIBUTED

8. *End of the Tour*

Director James Ponsoldt follows up *The Spectacular Now* with this retelling of the five-day-long interview between David Foster Wallace (Jason Segel) and Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky (Jesse Eisenberg). This could be catnip for the NPR crowd.

9. *A Walk in the Woods*

It kind of seems like cheating for festival founder Robert Redford to appear in a film at Sundance, but it's probably

best to not ignore him. Redford and Nick Nolte co-star as aging pals hiking the Appalachian Trail in this film, which kicks off the festival as the opening night gala.

10. *Going Clear*

There are also a ton of interesting documentaries, but if you only have time for one, make it Alex Gibney's already controversial Scientology take-down, featuring eight not-so-happy former Church members.

JOHNNY DEPP GWYNETH PALTROW EWAN MCGREGOR

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Comedy



Nicolas Cage GETTY IMAGES

Nicolas Cage to go after Bin Laden in Army of One

Actor Nicolas Cage has joined the latest comedy from Borat director Larry Charles, *The Hollywood Reporter* indicates. *Army of One* is inspired by an article published in *GQ* on one American's attempts to go on a manhunt for the Al-Qaeda leader in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

After a series of critical and commercial missteps, Nicolas Cage has decided to make his next film a satirical comedy, likely of the black humour variety. Inspired by a true story, *Army of One* centres on Gary Faulkner (Cage), a Colorado construction worker who made multiple attempts to track down Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan and Afghanistan. **AFP**

Script development

Write me up, Scotty: Simon Pegg will help pen *Star Trek 3*

Along with *Dark Blue* creator Doug Jung, British writer and actor Simon Pegg will co-author the script of the third movie in the *Star Trek* reboot. Deadline has revealed.

Though not exactly anticipated, Simon Pegg's arrival on the *Star Trek 3* production team is not entirely surprising. A known fan of all things sci-fi, the writer and director of the 2005 zombie comedy *Shaun of the Dead* is a friend of J.J. Abrams, who directed the first two movies in the franchise, released in 2009 and 2013. Pegg also appeared in both as Scotty, a role he is set to reprise in the third movie. **AFP**

Simon Pegg
GETTY IMAGES

Sniper targets conservative crowd

Marketing. Iraq War drama has brought in a demographic that movies seldom cater to

Empty seats were hard to come by at Clint Eastwood's *American Sniper* over the U.S. holiday weekend, where the R-rated Iraq War drama — all words seldom attached to “blockbuster” — rolled to the kind of runaway success that makes Hollywood sit up and take notice.

The film, which blew away box-office expectations with a superhero-sized \$107 million US over the four-day weekend, was in many ways an old-fashioned kind of Hollywood hit: It was built on star-power (Bradley Cooper and Eastwood), Oscar buzz (6 nominations including best picture) and a largely adult audience (63 per cent over 25 years old).

The success has made the latest film from the 84-year-old director (his second in half a year) a flashpoint in Hollywood, Washington D.C. and everywhere in between, sweeping *American Sniper* into the culture wars Eastwood has sometimes engaged.

Certainly, the wide-release opening wouldn't have been possible without the strong support of a seldom-catered-to demographic: conservatives.

Bradley Cooper in a scene from *American Sniper*. CONTRIBUTED

Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros., called conservatives' embrace of the film “huge,” noting it's an audience difficult to court.

“The audience watched this movie not as a war movie but as a movie about patriotism, a movie about a hero, a movie about family, a movie about serving our country,” said Fellman. “And it struck a chord right across the board.”

Most Hollywood heartland hits (like the recent *Unbroken*, or one of films *American Sniper* surpassed to become the biggest R-rated drama debut, *The*

Last Temptation of Christ) have capitalized on faith-based audiences. But *American Sniper*, about Navy SEAL marksman Chris Kyle, is the kind of heroic war film Hollywood has largely resisted depicting because of the often unpopular and less successful campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gitesh Pandya, editor of *BoxOfficeGuru.com*, credited the film's triumph to a “perfect storm” of factors, including the savvy marketing of Warner Bros., which stoked interest in the film by holding it in very limited release for two weeks.

“It was always expected to have a large conservative base come out for this film, as most military dramas do,” said Pandya. “But you can't sell a movie to only a conservative audience and reach \$107 million in a four-day weekend. You're reaching everybody with those kind of numbers.”

Eastwood has held that *American Sniper* is an apolitical character study about Kyle, who, with 160 confirmed kills, is considered the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history. He was tragically killed at a shooting

range in 2013 by a veteran he was helping adjust to life at home.

But the celebration of an elite killer who called his Iraqi foes “savages” has spawned a growing storm of criticism.

Seth Rogen compared the movie to Nazi propaganda before adding that he liked it on Twitter. Documentarian Michael Moore sparked more uproar when he posted an unrelated tweet about snipers not being heroes, before adding that he thought Eastwood confused Iraq for Vietnam.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Still Alice captures off-screen bond between stars

Chemistry. Kristen Stewart and Julianne Moore have been close for years, so playing mother and daughter was not a stretch



Kristen Stewart didn't need to stretch herself into actorly knots to feel a familial bond with Julianne Moore in *Still Alice*.

She had known Moore, who became a five-time Oscar nominee with her recent nod for *Alice*, since her first starring role in 2004's *Catch That Kid*, which was directed by Moore's husband Bart Freundlich. That shoot was “very much a

family affair,” Stewart says, and she grew close enough to Moore that acting as her daughter in *Still Alice* felt almost too easy.

“It's hard to take credit for anything ... because I like her, and because we get along and we understand each other — and that was captured,” Stewart

“As an actor ... you can't work with everyone, to be honest with you. The reason things affect an audience ... is because an emotion and energy like that is contagious, so if you're faking it, people know it.”

“For a project that's so ambitious and so intimidating,” she added, “I needed to know I would help and support her rather than take away from what she's doing.”

In the disquieting drama, Moore portrays a renowned linguistics professor whose charmed life is brought to abrupt ruin with the diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Rapidly, the astute academic begins vanishing into the mysterious condition while

Kristen Stewart, left, and Julianne Moore in *Still Alice*. CONTRIBUTED

her husband (Alec Baldwin) and three grown children stand by in helpless terror.

As aspiring actress Lydia, the 24-year-old Stewart portrays a character who is both at odds with her mother (over the daughter's refusal to go to college) and yet her closest confidante. She's the only family member brave enough to face

her mother's deteriorating state head-on.

Stewart, so closely associated with the blockbuster *Twilight* film franchise, has won critical regard for her *Still Alice* performance.

The *New York Times* praised her “excellent work” in the film, the *L.A. Times* concluded that the film “wouldn't be

nearly as emotionally effective as it is” without Stewart's presence, and *Grantland* heralded her “thrillingly natural” performance as one of the 12 most under-appreciated of the past year.

Sitting in the audience for the film, however, Stewart was mesmerized only by her co-star. “I was present for a lot of her performance, but I somehow watched the movie and I got my head blown off,” Stewart said.

“I knew she was going to accomplish something great ... that changed the face of the disease and revealed the fate of its people, but she let you into something that you normally wouldn't witness unless you had to personally experience it.”

“Without the pain that goes along with knowing someone who has Alzheimer's ... it's like I've gotten a taste of what that's like. “It's because of her. She's so ... smart,” Stewart added, peppering in the F-word for emphasis. “She's such a genius.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Why Cumming thinks it's OK to give kids a scare

Interview. Strange Magic's voice of the villain says there's a fear factor in most children's tales

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Strange Magic, a new animated jukebox musical fantasy from George Lucas, follows in the footsteps of Peter Pan, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella. All are musicals, all are for kids and all feature a villain geared to make young pulses race.

"I do think we underestimate how much darkness kids can deal with," says Alan Cumming, who plays the film's chief baddie, the Bog King.

Inspired by A Midsummer Night's Dream, Strange Magic is set in a fairy world where you can never judge a book by its cover.

Cumming's character, with his glowing eyes and a skeleton that is more exo than endo, certainly embodies the movie's message that beauty is only skin deep.

"All these kinds of films are based on a tradition that goes way, way back to the Grimm Brothers," says Cumming.

"In a way, the reason these stories are told is to teach kids some sort of moral lesson. You have to scare people but ultimately show that he has a nicer side to him."

Lucas, who has a 'story by' and producer credit on the film says, "with the Bog King we did tone

him down a bit because it is a delicate balance. We've shown it to a lot of kids and most of them aren't affected by it at all. My daughter, who is only 18 months, saw the trailer with the Bog King in it on a screen, not on a TV and she wasn't moved by it at all. But of course 18-month-olds aren't afraid of anything yet.

"Kids are not as fragile as you think they are. All the stuff, that it warps their brains, I'm not sure about that," he said.

"There is a certain reality to imitative violence, which is monkey see, monkey do, and that is dangerous, but at the same time a well brought up kid doesn't fall into that."

Lucas, who has been working on this project on and off for 15 years — "I liked to do it in between working on Star Wars and writing scripts and things"— says there are only three moments in the movie that are "bothersome."

"It has been my experience with my kids that if you sense something coming up you just put your hand over their eyes and usually they're faster at doing it than you are."



Alan Cumming voices the Bog King in Strange Magic, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

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Alan Cumming
GETTY IMAGES

Now in theatres

Mystery



The Boy Next Door

Director. Neill Fearnley, Rob Cohen

Stars. Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman


Jennifer Lopez leads the cast in The Boy Next Door, a psychological thriller that explores a forbidden attraction that goes much too far. Directed by Rob Cohen (The Fast and the Furious) and written by Barbara Curry, the film also stars Ryan Guzman, John Corbett and Kristin Chenoweth.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 29%

Audience: 90%

Animation



Strange Magic

Director. Gary Rydstrom


Strange Magic is a madcap fairy tale musical inspired by A Midsummer Night's Dream. Popular songs from the past six decades help tell the tale of a colorful cast of goblins, elves, fairies and imps, and their hilarious misadventures sparked by the battle over a powerful potion.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 13%

Audience: 85%

Action



Mortdecai

Director. David Koepp

Stars. Johnny Depp, Gwyneth Paltrow


Juggling some angry Russians, the British Mi5, his impossibly leggy wife and an international terrorist, debonair art dealer and part time rogue Charlie Mortdecai (Johnny Depp) must traverse the globe armed only with his good looks and special charm in a race to recover a stolen painting rumored to contain the code to a lost bank account filled with Nazi gold.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 9%

Audience: 92%

Comedy



The Wedding Ringer

Director. Jeremy Garelick

Stars. Josh Gad, Kevin Hart


Doug Harris (Josh Gad) is a lovable but socially awkward groom-to-be with a problem: He has no best man. With less than two weeks to go until he marries the girl of his dreams (Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting), Doug is referred to Jimmy Callahan (Kevin Hart), owner and CEO of Best Man, Inc., a company that provides flattering best men for socially challenged guys in need. What ensues is a hilarious wedding charade.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 33%

Audience: 77%

Comedy



Paddington

Director. Paul King

Stars. Nicole Kidman, Hugh Bonneville


From the beloved novels by Michael Bond and producer David Heyman (Harry Potter), Paddington tells the story of the comic misadventures of a young Peruvian bear (voiced by Firth) who travels to the city in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone, he begins to realize that city life is not all he had imagined — until he meets the kindly Brown family.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 96%

Audience: 87%

Drama



Foxcatcher

Director. Bennett Miller

Stars. Steve Carrell, Channing Tatum, Mark Ruffalo

Foxcatcher is a psychological drama that tells the story of Olympic Gold Medal-winning wrestler Mark Schultz (Tatum), who sees a way out from the shadow of his more celebrated wrestling brother Dave (Ruffalo) and a life of poverty when he is summoned by eccentric multi-millionaire John du Pont (Carell) to move onto his estate and train for the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics: 85%

Audience: 78%

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Blackhat (14A) Fri 4:15-7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20 Mon 4:45-7:45 Tue 4:15-7:20-10:20 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:45 The Boy Next Door (18A) Fri 4:20-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-4:20-7-9:15 Mon 5:45-8:20 Tue 4:20-7-9:15 Wed-Thu 5:45-8:20 Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 4:45-6:30-10 Mon 7:40 Tue 6:30-10 Wed-Thu 7:40

The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 4:05-6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:05-6:45-9:30 Mon 5:10-8 Tue 4:05-6:45-9:30 Wed-Thu 5:10-8 Fri 7:40-10:30 Sat 4:15-7:40-10:30 Sun 4:15-7:40-10:20 Mon 7 Tue 7:40-10:30 Wed-Thu 7

Mortdecai (PG) Fri 4:25-7:15-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:25-7:15-9:55 Mon 5:15-8:05 Tue 4:25-7:15-9:55 Wed-Thu 5:15-8:05 Paddington (G) Fri 3:50-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-6:30-9 Mon 4:30-7 Tue 3:50-6:30-9 Wed-Thu 4:30-7

Taken 3 (PG) Fri 5:05-7:50-10:30 Sat 2:30-5:05-7:50-10:30 Sun 2:30-5:05-7:50-10:25 Mon 5:05-7:50 Tue 5:05-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 5:05-7:50

The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 4:45-7:30-10 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:45-7:30-10 Mon 5:30-8:15 Tue 4:45-7:30-10 Wed-Thu 5:30-8:15

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Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri 7:10 Sat 1:20-7:10 Sun 1:20-6:55 Mon-Thu 5:45

Baby (STC) Fri 4:20-7:40 Sat-Sun 1-4:20-7:40 Mon-Thu 7:40

The Book of Life (G) Sat-Sun 1:50 Mon-Thu 5:25

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 4:45-7:15-9:35 Sat 2-4:45-7:15-9:35 Sun 2-4:40-7:10-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20

Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG) Sat 1:30 Sun 1:25; 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 3:30-6:40-9:10 Sun 3:20-6:30-8:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50 Feng Shui 2 (PG) Fri 4:10-6:55-9:45 Sat 1:10-3:50-6:55-9:45 Sun 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:05

Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4-9:20 Sun 4-9 Mon-Thu 8:10

Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sat 4:30-7-9:50 Sun 4:30-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:25-8 I (14A) Fri 3:50-7:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:50 Mon-Thu 7:30

St. Vincent (14A) Fri 6:50 Sat 1:40-6:50 Sun 1:40-6:40 Mon-Thu 5:35

Whiplash (14A) Fri-Sat 4:40-9:30 Sun 4:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 8:30

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American Sniper (14A) Fri 3:40-6:50-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:40 Blackhat (14A) Fri-Sun 3:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 8:30

The Boy Next Door (18A) Fri 3:50-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:50-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:10

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri 6:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-6:40 Mon-Thu 5:20 ; Paddington (G) Fri 3:25-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:25-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 6-8:30

Strange Magic (G) Fri 3:20-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:20-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15

The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 4-7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20

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Cake (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-10:05

Foxcatcher (PG) Fri 3:35-6:35-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:35-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:35

The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sat 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Mon-Tue 4:05-7:05-10:05 Wed 4:05 Thu

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The Boy Next Door (18A) Fri 7:15-9:25 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7:15-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:25

Mortdecai (PG) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:10

Paddington (G) Fri 7:05-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-7:05-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:15

Project Almanac (PG) Thu 7:20-9:45

Strange Magic (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:40-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

Taken 3 (PG) Fri 6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:35 Mon-Wed 6:50-9:35 Thu 6:50

The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:15-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

SilverCity Polo Park 815 St. James Street

American Sniper (14A) Fri 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Sat 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:40 Sun 1:10-4:20-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:30

Annie (G) Fri-Sat 12:55 Sun-Thu 1

Blackhat (14A) Fri-Sun 4:10-7:20-10:30 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-10:25

Bolshoi Ballet: Swan Lake (STC) Sun 12:55

The Boy Next Door (18A) Fri 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 Sat 11:15-1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 Sun-Thu 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20

Cake (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:15-6:55-9:30 Wed 4:15-6:55-9:30 Thu 1:40-4:15-6:55-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30

Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Wed 7:30

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri 12:55-4:10-7:30-10:35 Sat 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:35 Sun 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:25

Mon-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:20-10:30

The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:20-7:10-9:55 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:55

Mon-Tue 1:25-4:20-7:10-9:55 Wed 4:20-7:10-9:55 Thu 1:25-4:20-7:10-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30

Into the Woods (G) Fri 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:50 Sat 12:40-3:55-6:50-9:50 Sun 12:55-3:55-6:50 Mon-Tue 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:50 Wed 1:05-3:55-9:50 Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:50

Monster House (PG) Sat 11

Mortdecai (PG) Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:35-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:40-10:20 Mon-Tue 2:15-5-7:45-10:25 Wed 2:15-5-7-10:25 Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:25

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (G) Fri 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Sat 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Sun 2:45-5:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:15

Paddington (G) Fri 2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sat 11-12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sun-Thu 2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40

Project Almanac (PG) Thu 7-9:40

Selma (PG) Fri 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:10 Sat 12:45-4:05-7:05-10:10 Sun 4:05-7:05-10:10 Mon-Wed 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:10 Thu 1-3:55

Strange Magic (G) Fri 2:30-5-7:35-10:05 Sat 12-2:30-5-7:35-10:05 Sun-Thu 2:30-5-7:35-10:05

Taken 3 (PG) Fri 2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Sat

SilverCity St. Vital 110-1225 St Mary's Rd.

American Sniper (14A) Fri 1-4-7:10-10:20 Sat 12:55-4-7:10-10:20 Sun 12:55-4-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:15-4-7:15-10:15

The Boy Next Door (18A) Fri 1:15-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Sat 12:45-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Mon-Wed 3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Thu 5:30-7:50-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1:30

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri 3:35-6:50-10:05 Sat 12:25-3:35-6:50-10:05 Sun-Thu 3:35-6:50-10

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30-9:50

The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sat 2:05-4:45-7:40-10:25 Sun-Thu 2:05-4:45-7:40-10:20

Into the Woods (G) Fri 1:05-3:55-6:55-9:55 Sat-Sun 1-3:55-6:55-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:30-3:55-6:55-9:55 Wed 1:30-3:45-6:55-10:05 Thu 1:35-3:55-6:55-9:55

Monster House (PG) Sat 11

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (G) Fri 2:25 Sat 11:15-2:25 Sun 2-7:25 Mon-Thu 1:20-7:25

Paddington (G) Fri 2:25-4:50-7:20-9:45 Sat 11:30-12-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:45 Sun 12:50-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:15-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:45

Strange Magic (G) Fri 2:30-5-7:30-10 Sat 11:25-12:05-2:30-5-7:30-10 Sun-Wed 2:30-5-7:30-10 Thu 5-7:30-10 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1:30

Taken 3 (PG) Fri-Tue 2:10-4:45-7:35-10:15 Wed 1:25-4-10:15 Thu 2:10-4:45-7:35-10:15

The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sat 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sun-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:20

Katy Perry racks up billions of YouTube views

If you were watching anything music-related on YouTube last year, there's a good chance it was Katy Perry. Her channel was the most-watched on the video site among musicians, pulling in nearly 2.4 billion views last year. Yes, billion. She was also the third-most watched channel over-all across the site.

So this whole Super Bowl halftime thing totally makes sense. Three of her videos alone — Dark Horse, This Is How We Do and Birthday — were responsible for 1.2 billion of those views. Yikes. Don't kids listen to mp3s anymore?



Katy Perry

Superhero stars make Marvelous Super Bowl bet



Chris Evans, left, and Chris Pratt

Two of the Marvel cinematic universe's reigning heroes named Chris, Captain America star Chris Evans and Guardians of the Galaxy star Chris Pratt, have taken their hometown pride and NFL rivalry and turned it into something positive. Boston native and Patriots fan Evans started the taunting off by pointing out that he and Washington state-bred Pratt would have to be enemies for the next two weeks, but the smack talk quickly evolved into a rather noble bet. "Seahawks win, you fly yourself to

Seattle, visit [Seattle's Children's] hospital as Captain America, waving the 12th man flag," Pratt wagered, to which Evans replied, "I accept. And when the Patriots humiliate your seachickens, I expect Star-Lord to arrive at [Boston area children's cancer treatment center Christopher's Haven] in a Brady jersey."

Good on them. Of course, Pratt couldn't resist getting in one last very topical burn: "Humiliate my Seahawks? Maybe talk to Brady about deflating your expectations. BOOM!"

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



This should do plenty to calm those pesky dating rumours plaguing Selena Gomez and Zedd. Gomez and the adorably elfin music producer have been working together, but rumors quickly started cropping up their partnership is a bit more personal than that. And the photo he posted to Instagram of Gomez in bed, in a bra, laughing during a FaceTime session with him is only fueling those rumours.

Now, I'll admit this is my first real introduction to Zedd, and while his name suggests he's some sort of Bizarro World foe that I must defeat, the fact that he's referencing the cult classic terrible, terrible movie The Room instantly makes me like him. The caption of the photo is an attempt at a phonetic reading of one of Tommy Wiseau's greetings — "Oh hi derling..." — and properly explains Gomez's laughter in the photo. Hey, maybe she has good taste after all.

Selena Gomez gets last laugh when all is Zedd and done



Selena Gomez ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Regrets? Blake Shelton has a few after Twitter snipe

Celebrities are getting pretty vocal about what sickens them these days, but at least in The Voice judge Blake Shelton's case, he insists it was the booze talking. Earlier this week, Shelton indirectly took Seth Rogen and Michael Moore to task for criticizing American Sniper, tweeting, "Sickens me to see celebrities or anybody slam the very people who protect their right to talk s—" along with the hashtag "true cowards."

Blake Shelton



The thing about that, though, is he might have phrased it differently had he been sober. "Sometimes I probably say things on [Twitter] I shouldn't say," he tells E! News. "I had a few drinks and had to go off about a movie I want to see."

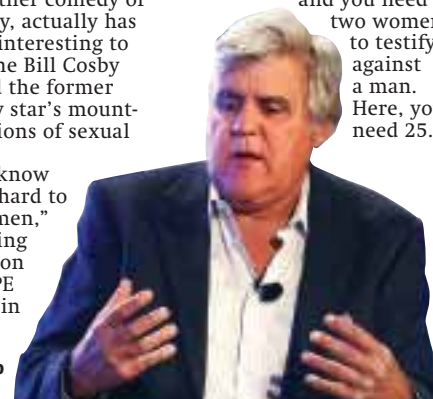
Leno sticks chin out. Sides with women not Cosby

Jay Leno, usually a bastion of playing it safe when it comes to either comedy or commentary, actually has something interesting to say about the Bill Cosby scandal and the former Cosby Show star's mounting accusations of sexual assault.

"I don't know why it's so hard to believe women," he said during a Q&A session at the NATPE conference in Miami this

week, according to Variety. "You to go Saudi Arabia and you need two women to testify against a man. Here, you need 25."

Jay Leno



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Dessert. Cinnamon and Pecan Coffee Cake is a great companion for your next cup of joe



RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

Ingredients

Topping

- 1 1/2 cups (150 g) pecans, lightly toasted and finely chopped
- 1/2 cup (70 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (105 g) sugar
- 1/2 cup (120 g) brown sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup (115 g) unsalted butter, softened

Cake

- 2 1/2 cups (350 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup (170 g) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups (480 g) brown sugar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla extract
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) plain yogurt or sour cream
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) milk
- 1 tsp cocoa powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon

Icing (optional)

- 1/2 cup (65 g) icing sugar
- 2 tsp (10 ml) milk



This recipe serves 12. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C). Generously butter an angel food cake pan with a removable bottom.

Topping

1. In a bowl, combine all dry ingredients. Add butter and mix with fingertips until the mixture is just moistened. Set aside.

Cake

1. In another bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

2. In a third bowl, cream the

butter, brown sugar and vanilla with an electric mixer. Add the eggs, one at a time, and beat until smooth. Add the dry ingredients alternately with the yogurt and stir until smooth.

3. Pour 1/2 cup (125 ml) of cake batter into a small bowl. Add the milk, cocoa powder and cinnamon and mix thoroughly. Set the cocoa batter aside.

4. Pour half of the vanilla cake batter into the prepared pan. Cover with cocoa batter. Sprinkle with half topping mix. Cover with the remaining batter

and the remaining topping.

5. Bake for about 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of the cake comes out clean. Let cool completely. Run a knife between the cake and the pan, then unmould.

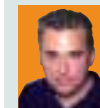
Icing

6. Combine the icing sugar and milk with a fork. Drizzle on top of the cake.

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Liquid Assets

Toasting Robert Burns



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Short of the first few lines of Auld Lang Syne I'd be hard pressed to quote you much else written by Robert Burns.

Not that my lack of knowledge of old school verse will stop me from celebrating the bard this Sunday with a glass of scotch and plate of haggis.

Ok, I may pass on the haggis this year but Robbie Burns Day is an opportunity to get over any fear you have of Scottish whisky.

Though its fans may have just choked on that last line, truth is scotch is a polarizing booze. Even when blended (its mel-lowest incarnation) it can pound on our palate with Hulk-like aggression.

The Robert Burns Single Malt Whisky (\$44.95 - \$69.99) from the Isle of Arran Distillery is an appropriate dram.

The only malt to be endorsed by The World Robert Burns Federation, it's a soft, floral whisky with light fruity undertones that sips like poetry in a glass. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME**

PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



This recipe makes four dozen Cantucci. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

A perfect coffee dipper

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 325 F (170 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. In a bowl, combine the flour, ground almonds, baking powder and salt. Set aside.

3. In another bowl, cream the butter and sugar with an electric mixer. Add the eggs, one at a time until smooth. With a spatula, add the dry ingredients and liqueur and stir until the dough is smooth. Add almonds.

4. On a generously floured work surface, divide the dough into 4 pieces. With your hands, shape into four 10-inch (25 cm) long logs. Place the logs on the baking sheet, spacing them evenly. Bake for about 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool for 10 minutes.

5. With a bread knife, cut each roll into 3/4-inch (2 cm) thick slices. Place the cookies, standing up, on the baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown and dry. Let cool completely. **RICARDO**

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (210 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup (130 g) ground almonds
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 6 tbsp (84 g) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup (210 g) sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp almond liqueur
- 1 cup (170 g) almonds, chopped

All-star game

Columbus right under the spotlight

John Davidson has travelled the world playing, talking about and scouting professional hockey.

He says his current outpost is a great place that few know about.

"Columbus, to me, in some ways, is a very well-kept secret," said Davidson, the director of hockey operations for the NHL's Blue Jackets.

That might change this weekend. The city and the Blue Jackets have a busy, busy few days in the spotlight.

Ohio's capital city will be the venue for this weekend's NHL all-star game, including the player draft on Friday night, a skills competition on Saturday and the game itself on Sunday at downtown's Nationwide Arena. There are many other related events, drawing thousands of visitors and television viewers.

Meanwhile, Ohio State, with its sprawling campus just a couple of miles from downtown, will celebrate its national championship in college football at massive Ohio Stadium on Saturday morning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Nick Foligno will be joined at the all-star game by fellow Blue Jacket Ryan Johansen. GETTY IMAGES

Voracek: The unlikely league-leading scorer

NHL. Ahead of Crosby, Seguin and others, the Flyers right-winger tops at the all-star break

The NHL's leading scorer at the all-star break has never cracked 70 points in a season.

His ascension past Sidney Crosby, Tyler Seguin and all of the best scorers in hockey has made Philadelphia Flyers right-winger Jakub Voracek one of the most surprising stories of the first half of the season.

On pace for 95 points in his sixth year in the league, Voracek has surprised even himself with this kind of production.

"I would be lying if I said I knew I was going to be leading the points by January," said Voracek, who prefers to be called Jake. "I've really worked hard for it. But it doesn't mean that I was on top for 45 games and now I just let up. I've just got to keep working hard and try to get better."

It's still not clear how much better Voracek can get. He set a career high in points last season with 62 and has 56 in 48 games so far this season, on 17 goals and 39 assists.

Some of that is thanks to fellow all-star Claude Giroux, his linemate for the past two-plus seasons. Giroux is tied for third in the league in scoring.

"G's a smart player and he makes those passes just at the right time. With Jake's speed and the way he brings pucks to the net — and he can also pass the puck — they're both good at everything," said Flyers forward Vincent Lecavalier, who

In points

No one expected the Kladno, Czech Republic, native to produce quite like this.

- **NHL.** Voracek had never even broken the 50-point mark till last season.
- **QMJHL.** With the Halifax Mooseheads he put up 186 points in 112 games over two seasons.

helped then-Lightning teammate Martin St. Louis win the Art Ross in 2004. "They're exceptional.... I think it just works well together."

Voracek and Giroux have excelled and produced even with a rotating cast of characters on left wing: Brayden Schenn, Matt Read, Michael Raffl and Wayne Simmonds. A lack of secondary scoring down the lineup, along with defensive miscues, has the Flyers well out of the playoff race.

But that's not Voracek's fault. The former Blue Jackets winger who was part of the deal that sent Jeff Carter to Columbus is enjoying his best season by far.

"I think it's more experience," Voracek said. "I'm more patient with the puck in the tight situations and on the power play."

"Every year I feel like when you gain that experience, when you play those games, you find different solutions sometimes for the situations on the ice. It's what it is: experience, work ethic, good teammates, good linemates. That's all it takes."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jakob Voracek has a surprising 56 points in 48 games this season. By comparison, in 2013-2014, he set a career-high 62 points. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

4 SPORTS



METRO IS ADDING SOME
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Metro Winnipeg welcomes TSN 1290's Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson to its sports writing team.

Look for his new weekly feature 'View from the 300's' exclusively in Metro News!

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metro



Tyron Brackenridge is one of the names Brendan Taman is hoping to keep for 2015. BRENT JUST/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Riders' GM busy as free agency looms

CFL. Player market opens up in three weeks; executive deals with potential loss of no fewer than 19 players

Brendan Taman still has plenty on his plate less than three weeks before the start of CFL free agency.

The Saskatchewan GM has signed four pending free agents, including starting defensive linemen Tearrius George and Canadian Ricky Foley, but still has 19 players slated to hit the open market Feb. 10. That includes slotback Weston Dressler, offensive lineman Ben Heenan and safety Tyron Brackenridge, all major contributors to the Riders' 2013 Grey Cup win.

Taman is hopeful he can re-sign at least one of them before the deadline.

"We're not going to get every guy back, we know that. We're just trying to minimize the hits on how many we lose and who it is."

According to the CFL website, 30 of the 136 potential free agents have re-signed with their clubs. Nine have been released outright, with Toronto Argonauts cornerback Jalil Carter and Calgary Stampeders defensive lineman Shawn Lemon going on to sign NFL deals with Minnesota and Pittsburgh, respectively.

On Thursday, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers released linebacker Ian Wild so he could pursue NFL opportunities.

Montreal receiver Duron Carter (75 catches, 1,030 yards, seven TDs) and Hamilton all-star cornerback Delvin Breaux are among the remaining 97 pending free agents but both are expected to sign in the U.S. Also garnering interest south of the

Current talks

Taman says the Riders have already tabled offers to some on the top of his list.

- **Tyron Brackenridge.** The player's reps and the Riders have "narrowed the gap" in their talks.
- **Weston Dressler.** The Riders have made an offer, but Taman expects Dressler's camp to "sit on it for a while."
- **Jerome Messam.** Taman is also working on getting the Toronto native back but warns other teams may see a lot of value in him, too.

border is Calgary centre Brett Jones, the league's top lineman in 2014 whose CFL deal also expires next month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Golf

Putnam grabs early lead at La Quinta

Michael Putnam made nine birdies in an 11-hole stretch Thursday and finished with a 9-under 63 to take a one-stroke lead in the Humana Challenge.

Phil Mickelson had a 71 at California's La Quinta Country Club in his first event since the Ryder Cup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Raps' Lowry voted into all-star game

The fans have spoken: Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry is an all-star.

Lowry made a late surge in fan balloting and will start for the Eastern Conference at the NBA all-star game. The scrappy Raptors guard passed Miami's Dwyane Wade in voting and will start alongside Washington's John Wall, the first time the East has had two first-time starters at guard since 2000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Seattle's Lynch fined \$20K, source says

The NFL has fined Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch \$20,000 for making an obscene gesture during last Sunday's NFC championship game, a person with knowledge of the fine told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The league did not specify what the gesture was in the win over Green Bay, but Lynch grabbed his crotch after scoring a go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter. Lynch was fined \$11,000 for a similar gesture in Seattle's win over Arizona on Dec. 21.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Marshawn Lynch GETTY IMAGES

We dunno: Pats' Belichick and Brady claim ignorance

NFL. New England representatives distance themselves from 'deflate-gate'

The two men most responsible for delivering wins for the New England Patriots both said Thursday they have no explanation for how footballs used to reach the Super Bowl were underinflated by two pounds per square inch.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said he has not been contacted by the NFL, even as league officials investigate whether the team cheated against the Indianapolis Colts.

"I don't know what happened," Brady said, answering questions from reporters hours after Patriots coach Bill Belichick said he almost never thinks about football pressure and doesn't know what happened, either.

Unlike Belichick, who



Tom Brady and Bill Belichick share a word after Sunday's 45-7 AFC title win over the Colts. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

briefly answered questions after a long opening remark by repeatedly saying, "I've told you everything I know" and, "I don't have an explanation,"

Brady answered many questions and said he doesn't think about football specifications.

"I get the snap, I drop back, I throw the ball," Brady

said. "I don't sit there and try to squeeze it and determine that."

He does, however, have his preferences — he likes the football to be pumped to 12.5 pounds per square inch of air pressure, he said. The NFL requires balls to be inflated between 12.5 and 13.5 pounds per square inch.

"To me, that's a perfect grip for the football," he said. "I would never do anything outside the rules of play."

With different approaches, Belichick and Brady sent a unified message: both said they have no clue how the footballs were tampered with or switched and started learning about the issue along with fans and everyone else.

"I have no knowledge of anything, any wrongdoing," Brady said when asked who on the Patriots was responsible for the underinflated footballs. "I'm very comfortable saying nobody did it as far as I know."

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Yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	3	2	1	8	7	9	6
8	9	1	7	4	6	2	3	5
2	6	7	5	9	3	1	4	8
9	1	4	3	8	5	6	2	7
6	8	2	4	7	1	9	5	3
3	7	5	6	2	9	8	1	4
7	2	8	9	3	4	5	6	1
1	3	6	8	5	2	4	7	9
5	4	9	1	6	7	3	8	2

				4		8		9
	2		6			4		
				8			1	2
	3		2					
9		4				5		1
					5		7	
5	1			2				
		3			9		4	
8		6		3				

Today's horoscope

The stars have aligned. It's time to put your doubts behind you and get the vehicle you deserve.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

This will be a busy day and you will get many important tasks out of the way. But don't forget about love. Let that special someone know that they mean the world to you.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You will get along with people in positions of authority remarkably well today and if you need a favor then now is the time to ask. But don't let it go to your head — yes, it is possible to ask for too much.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Someone you think of highly has been waiting for you to declare your friendship, and maybe even your passion. If you do it today your relationship will go from good to great.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Make forgive and forget your motto. According to the planets it is not worth your while to continue some kind of feud — in fact everyone concerned would be delighted if you were to pretend it never happened.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

There is a ruthlessness about you right now, especially in partnership matters where you have no intention of letting anyone take advantage of you. Try not to be too hard-hearted.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Be careful what you spend your money on today because if you waste it on things you don't really need you will find yourself short of cash when there is something you do need at the turn of the month.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Give a friend or family member the benefit of the doubt today, even if you suspect they are telling you lies. According to your solar chart you won't lose out financially or emotionally, so why make an issue of it?

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You don't usually lack in the common sense department but today you will do something entirely illogical. Others will be surprised, to say the least, but maybe that's the idea.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

By helpful by all means today but be wary too, especially of people who try to persuade you to lend them money. According to the planets they are up to no good, so keep your money in your pocket where it belongs.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

The more someone tries to convince you that you can do something wrong because it will lead to something right the further the distance you need to put between you.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You don't have to fight to get what you need. On the contrary, you will get everything you desire over the next two or three days simply by appealing to other people's generosity.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

If you have a secret, keep quiet. It may be about someone you don't care about but if it becomes public knowledge you'll be the one who gets blamed for the consequences.

We make the decision, not the banks.

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Barry Uranick

Financial Services Manager
Salter Street Location

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across?
Scan this image with your
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Yesterday's Crossword



Online

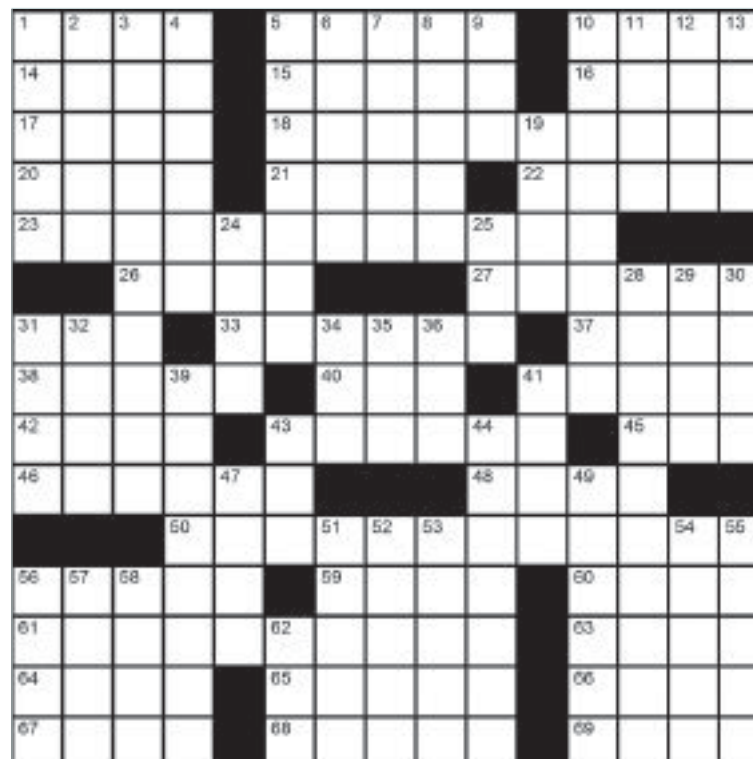
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers



Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Belonging to BC's ocean
5. Buddhist who has attained Nirvana
10. Rec room locale
14. Rhyming pattern
15. Stables sound
16. Man: Italian
17. Ms. Downey
18. Current album by Canadian band Mounties: '___ Legacy'
20. Lines giver
21. Islamic leader
22. Foot-to-leg connector
23. New animated movie; or, ELO song: 2 wds.
26. ___ Ben Adhem (Leigh Hunt poem)
27. Gain
31. 2002 Winter Olympics locale [acronym]
33. Sacred river rising in the Himalayas
37. Perfect
38. Traveller Mr. Polo
40. Mr. Cruise
41. Now ___ be told
42. At all
43. Big divides
45. And: German
46. Southeastern Saskatchewan town
48. Pres. Lincoln's
50. Gordon Lightfoot's "Song for a ___"
56. "___ Less Ordinary" (1997)
59. Go ___ great length



60. Mushroomed
61. Vancouver attraction, Deeley ___ Exhibition
63. Perfect
64. Golfing great Mr. Aoki
65. More slight
66. Adjust the dial

67. Grown-up eft
68. That is, in Latin: 2 wds.
69. WWI fighter plane

Down

1. ___ nationaux du Canada
2. Concerning

3. Reporter's entourage: 2 wds.
4. Ancient Egypt's divine beetle
5. Barbuda's island nation partner
6. Movie producer Robert
7. Veronica Lodge's

8. Lizard type
9. Ordinal suffixes
10. Nova Scotia: ___ Head Park, 'Home of the World's Highest Record Tides'
11. Vancouver-born broadcaster, ___-Yin

- Lee
12. Nero's 2150
13. Particular puff
19. Snipped stuff
24. Cancelled
25. Li'l navigation aid
28. Marketing feedback source: 2 wds.
29. ___ uproar: 2 wds.
30. Mind
31. Diving duck
32. Etna extraction
34. Utmost degree
35. Portuguese colony in India, once
36. First aid team [acronym]
39. Siksika chief in Alberta (b. circa 1830 - d.1890)
41. Paperback's ID
43. Coke container
44. Tony "___" Young (Canadian broadcaster who is an alum of MuchMusic)
47. Layer
49. Card game, Crazy
51. Considered
52. Ink: French
53. Wheezing noises
54. Salon rinse
55. Shannon ___ (Reality TV star born in St John's, Newfoundland)
56. Cole Porter's "I ___ Love"
57. Misplace
58. "... ___ a puddy tat!" - Tweety Bird
62. Gladiator's 901

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